

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 L-03 NSC-10 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 RSR-01 /086 W

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

EUR FOR STOESSEL: EB FOR ARMSTRONG

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - NEW PAN AM SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 88073

SUMMARY: IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS WE HAVE DISCUSSED NEW PAN AM SCHEDULE WITH HIGHER LEVELS IN BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. GOB CONTINUES INSIST ON NEED FOR FORMAL CONSULTATION BUT FINAL DECISION WILL BE REVIEWED AT GOB INTERAGENCY MEETING MAY 11. IN VIEW OF IMPLICATIONS FOR US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS (PENDING LARGE SABENA PURCHASE OF US AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT) AND OF BROADER US INTERESTS IN THIS PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION I HOLD THAT FORMAL CONSULTATION WITH BELGIANS IS ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY UNILATERAL ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED NEW PAN AM SCHEDULE WITH FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS THEO DE DOBBELEER DRAWING ON REFTEL AS WELL AS PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS. HE TOLD US U. S. ARGUMENTATION WOULD BE TAKEN INTO FULL ACCOUNT AT INTERAGENCY MEETING MAY 11.
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DE DOBBELEER CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT GOB NOT PERSUADED U. S. CARRIERS HAVE UNLIMITED BEYOND RIGHTS INCLUDING WARSAW AND MOSCOW SINCE OUR CIVIL BILATERAL NOT CLEAR ON THIS ISSUE. GOB HAS NOT YET SAID FINAL " YES OR NO" TO OUR LATEST DEMARCHE BUT BELIEVES CONSULTATION, AS CALLED FOR IN BILATERAL WHEN DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION ARISE, IS APPROPRIATE NEXT STEP. WHILE USG IS " OBVIOUS" PARTY TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS DE DOBBELEER THOUGHT IT FOOLISH TO CAVIL ON THIS POINT AND WONDERED WHETHER THERE COULD NOT BE A MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON OUR NEED FOR CONSULTATION. DE DOBBELEER PROMISED COMMUNICATE WITH US FOLLOWING MAY 11 MEETING.

2. WE WENT OVER U. S. ARGUMENTATION (E. G. 1969 DOCUMENTS AND PRECEDENTS) AND BELGIAN REPLIES BUT DE DOBBELEER INSISTED THAT DISCUSSIONS DURING 1969 NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED BINDING BY EITHER PARTY. WE POINTED OUT IN REBUTTAL THAT PAST BELGIAN CONDUCT SEEMED RELEVANT TO OUR INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENT. AS TO CONSULTATIONS WE ALSO POINTED TO MAY 20 DATE FOR INAUGURATION OF PAN AM FLIGHT WHICH RESULTED IN HEAVY INDUSTRY PRESSURE FOR USG ACTION.

3. APART FROM POSSIBLE ADVERSE AFFECTS ON OUR POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BELGIUM AND GOB COUNTER- ACTIONS WHICH COULD AFFECT PAN AM' S PRESENT COMMERCIAL POSITION, UNILATERAL USG ACTION IN NEW PAN AM FLIGHT ISSUE COULD THREATEN CONSUMMATION OF SABENA' S PLANS TO BUY LARGE NUMBER OF U. S. AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT. SABENA WISHES PURCHASE TEN BOEING 737' S AND ONE MORE DC-10 (BRUSSELS A-100, APRIL 20, 1973) PLUS SPEND U. S. \$4 MILLION TO MODIFY ITS TWO BOEING 747' S FOR FREIGHT TRANSPORT (STATE 88893). THESE SABENA PROPOSALS ARE AWAITING FINAL CABINET APPROVAL WHICH, AT LEAST FOR THE 747 MODIFICATION, HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A PRE FORMA REQUIREMENT. HOWEVER, SABENA MANAGING DIRECTOR ARCEL GOOSSENS DURING CONVERSATION MORNING MAY 11 HINTED AT POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES IF USG DOES NOT SHOW MORE UNDERSTANDING OF BELGIAN VIEWS. (BRUSSELS 2620).

4. THE VALIDITY OF US CLAIM TO RIGHTS FOR SERVICE TO TERMINAL POINTS BEYOND BRUSSELS IS NOT SELF- EVIDENT. THEREFORE, REFUSAL TO CONSULT PRIOR TO TAKING RETALIATORY ACTION WOULD EXPOSE US TO CRITICISM. SINCE USG INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING NEW ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS AND NATO PARTNERS, WE SHOULD SEEK TO RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION, RATHER THAN BY UNILATERAL ACTIONS.

5. THERE IS AN OUTSIDE CHANCE BELGIANS WILL AUTHORIZE PROPOSED NEW PAN AM SCHEDULE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD WHILE RESERVING THEIR RIGHTS PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH USG. REGARD-

LESS OF BELGIAN DECISION MAY 11 MEETING, I RECOMMEND USG
CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS WITH BELGIANS PRIOR TAKING ANY FURTHER
ACTION IN THIS SITUATION. STRAUZ- HUPE UNQTE STRAUZ- HUPE

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